



February 2, 2006

Dear Dr. Shelby:

B. Braun Medical Inc., a global leader in safety-minded and environmentally-sound hospital products, commends the findings of the expert panel convened by the National Toxicology Program (NTP), Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction (CERHR). We share the panel's concerns regarding the potential impact of DEHP on reproductive development in critically ill infants, and in women pregnant with male fetuses who are undergoing medical treatments where high exposure to DEHP could occur. B. Braun applauds the NTP/CERHR for convening this second independent panel of experts to review and update its previous report.

At B. Braun, our commitment to patient and environmental safety is evident in our products, which provide clinicians the ability to administer their infusion therapy needs with devices that are manufactured with DEHP- and PVC-free alternatives. B. Braun encourages all efforts to reduce and, wherever possible, eliminate actual or potential toxic substances such as DEHP in all medical products.

Today, B. Braun is the only full-line manufacturer of basic IV solutions in PVC-free and DEHP-free containers, and a leader in patient-safety technology and policy. The two major critical-care products B. Braun markets – EXCEL® and PAB® IV Containers – are manufactured with nontoxic, biologically inert copolymers of ethylene and propylene, and provide the most drug-compatible IV containers available.

In 2003, B. Braun recommended that all medical product companies minimize DEHP use. B. Braun urged the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to draft and support a regulation to mandate labeling for all medical devices plasticized with DEHP, allowing clinicians to make informed decisions when using products containing DEHP in clinical practice.

Until there are revised national standards for DEHP leachate levels or requirements to label products that leach DEHP, healthcare professionals will need to evaluate the data and make their own determination of the risks involved. As these caregivers consider available options, and the possible impact on patients' long-term health, B. Braun will continue to be at the forefront of evaluating and producing products that are DEHP-free.

Sincerely,

Marcus Schabacker, MD, PhD
Corporate Vice President
Research and Development and Medical and Clinical Affairs
B. Braun Medical Inc.